

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 2255 - SB 2502

February 17, 2022

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires youth development centers, local jails, and the Department of Correction (DOC) to provide a juvenile offender with good behavior a total of 50 minutes of outgoing telephone calls each week at no cost to the caller or recipient when the receiving party is a parent or guardian or a member of the clergy.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$3,600/FY22-23 and Subsequent Years

Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$15,000/FY22-23 and Subsequent Years*

Assumptions:

- Based on information provided by the Department of Children Services (DCS), the Department does not charge youth to make calls to parents or guardians at development centers; therefore, any fiscal impact to DCS resulting from the proposed legislation is estimated to be not significant.
- Based on information provided by the DOC, 10 juveniles held at the Northwest Correction Complex in 2021 used 63,689 telephone minutes at a cost of \$8,752, or an average of \$0.14 per minute.
- It is assumed 10 juveniles will receive 50 minutes of telephone service each week free of charge, for a total of 26,000 minutes each year (10 juveniles x 50 minutes x 52 weeks).
- The total recurring increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$3,640 (26,000 minutes x \$0.14) in FY22-23 and subsequent years.
- This analysis assumes that most local jails enter into contracts to provide services for placing calls and charge juveniles for phone privileges.
- Requiring local jails to provide 50 minutes of telephone services to juveniles with good behavior will require local jails to procure new service contracts for such services.
- The precise fiscal impact to local jails resulting from the proposed legislation is unknown; however, it is reasonable to estimate that requiring local jails to provide 50 free telephone minutes to certain juveniles placing phone calls to a parent, guardian or clergy member will result in a recurring mandatory increase in local expenditures in FY22-23 and subsequent years estimated to exceed \$15,000 statewide.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/vh